Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Original). A polypeptide selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(b) a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the following (i) to (iv):

(i) a polypeptide which is a conservative substitution variant or a naturally occurring allelic variant of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9,

(ii) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence having a sequence homology of 75% or more, as compared to a full length amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9;

(iii) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 9 are deleted, substituted or added; and

(iv) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or by a complement thereof, wherein the polypeptide possesses a phospholipase A_2 activity.

2 (Original). The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide of human.

3 (Original). The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is a recombinant polypeptide.

4 (Original). A nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

5 (Original). The nucleic acid according to claim 4, wherein the encoded polypeptide is a polypeptide of human.

6 (Original). A nucleic acid selected from the following (a) or (b):

(a) a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8; or

(b) a nucleic acid selected from the following (I) or (II):

(I) a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof; or

(II) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence having a sequence homology of 70% or more, as compared to a full length translation region sequence in the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8,

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide possessing a phospholipase A_2 activity.

7 (Original). The nucleic acid according to claim 6, wherein the nucleic acid is a nucleic acid of a human.

8 (Previously presented). A nucleic acid selected from the following (I) or (II):

(I) a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof; or

(II) a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence having a sequence homology of 70% or more, as compared to a full length translation region sequence in the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8,

wherein the nucleic acid is usable for the following (A) or(B):

(A) detection of expression or presence of a gene comprising the nucleic acid of claim 6; or

(B) change of expression of a gene comprising the nucleic acid of claim 6.

9 (Previously presented). The nucleic acid according to claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid is an isolated nucleic acid.

10 (Previously presented). A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 4.

11 (Original). The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the recombinant vector is an expression vector.

12 (Original). A host cell into which the recombinant vector of claim 11 is introduced.

13 (Original). A method for producing a recombinant polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

1) culturing a host cell into which the recombinant vector of claim 11 is introduced, to give a culture; and

2) collecting a polypeptide of a phospholipase A_2 encoded on the recombinant vector from the culture obtained in the above step 1).

14 (Withdrawn). An antibody capable of recognizing the polypeptide of claim 1.

15 (Previously presented). A method for characterizing, identifying or screening a therapeutic agent for an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising contacting a phospholipase A_2 comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 with a test substance; and assaying an action of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2, to determine inhibition of the phospholipase A_2.

16 (Original). The method according to claim 15, wherein the action of the test substance is assayed by carrying out an enzymatic reaction in a reaction system comprising the phospholipase A_2, a substrate for the phospholipase A_2, and the test substance, and assaying an inhibitory action for the enzymatic activity of the phospholipase A_2.

17 (Original). The method according to claim 16, wherein the substrate is a glycerophospholipid, and the enzymatic activity is an activity for hydrolyzing an ester bond at 2-position of the glycerophophoslipid.

18 (Withdrawn). A method for inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 in human, comprising administering a test substance to a human individual who is a patient with an inflammatory dermal disease, wherein the test substance is determined to be a substance capable of inhibiting the phospholipase A_2, by assaying an action

of the test substance on the phospholipase A_2 comprisinge the polypeptide of claim 1.

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled).

22 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 15, wherein the inflammatory dermal disease is a chronic intractable dermal disease.

23 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 15, wherein the inflammatory dermal disease is psoriasis.

24 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 15, wherein the test substance is a compound which has not been known as an inhibitor for the phospholipase A_2.

25 (Withdrawn). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising a compound capable of inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 as an active ingredient.

26 (Withdrawn). A method for treating an inflammatory dermal disease, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting a phospholipase A_2 comprising the polypeptide of claim 1.

27 (Previously presented). An examination method for psoriasis, characterized by assaying an expression level of a gene encoding the polypeptide of claim 1 for a biological sample collected from a human or non-human animal individual.

28 (Original). The examination method according to claim 27, wherein the expression level is assayed using a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 under stringent conditions, or a complement thereof as a probe or primer.

29 (Original). The examination method according to claim 28, wherein the probe or primer is a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a complement thereof.

30 (Withdrawn). The examination method according to claim 27, wherein the expression level is assayed using an antibody capable of recognizing said polypeptide.